

Let Your Life Speak

Post Presentation Questionnaire

1. 1 Corinthians 10:23 warns readers that “‘Everything is permissible’—but not everything is beneficial.” Think of an activity you engage in that might not be the best use of your time. What could you accomplish if you applied your efforts to a more worthwhile cause?
2. “Only speak what comes to mind if it’s necessary, true, helpful and kind.” If our words don’t the criteria in this rhyme, there’s a good chance that our children’s won’t either. Have you said anything this week that wasn’t necessary, true, helpful and kind?
3. While it’s important to make sure our responses are in line with Ephesians 4:29, sometimes the Spirit prompts us to initiate the encouragement. What can you do this week to show someone how much they mean to you?
4. As important as words are, they will never speak louder than our actions. That’s why 1 John 3:18 confirms that we are to love, not “in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” Think of a time that your actions did not support your words? Were you saying too much or doing too little?

5. Character is about doing the right thing at the right time for the right reasons. One of those right things is living your life in such a way that no one feels the need to step in. When looking at how you spend your day, do you manage your time so well that others don't feel the need to step in? Or do people have to remind you of your responsibilities and call to see why you are running late?

6. In addition to living your life in such a way that no one feels the need to step in, it's also important to live your life in such a way that others feel compelled to step up when you're gone. Describe a time when someone motivated you to take action in their absence.

What selfless act of service can you do that will inspire others to do the same?

7. Jesus did the opposite of what people expected him to do when he made "himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant."i to prove that he was God's son. We are called to do the same as we change the world, by first changing ourselves. In what area(s) do you have to let go of trying to change another person to make room for God to work in his or her life?

How can you better use that time and energy to focus on your own, rather than the other person's transformation?

8. The word Speak serves as a reminder to let your life speak to you, and then through you to others. If we attempt to skip the personal growth part of this step and move right into telling others about what they need to change, it comes as preaching instead of teaching. Describe a time when you felt like someone was preaching rather than teaching because their words were not an accurate reflection of the way they lived their own life.

9. The bible warns us in James 2:13 that “judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.” Think of a time that you withheld mercy from someone. What can you do to right the wrong?

10. “You are what you are, but you are not yet what you will be.”ⁱⁱ These words by John Ortberg remind us that, if we want to make a difference, we first have to make an effort. One of the efforts we have to make is to put ourselves in a place where transformation can occur. What routines can you put in place (i.e., journaling, bible study, devotions, Scripture reading, fellowship with other believers, etc.) to position yourself to become more like Christ?

11. When sailing through a body of water, the term wake is used to describe “the wave that spreads behind a boat as it moves forward”ⁱⁱⁱ When moving through life, a person leaves a wake behind as well. If the wake is our record, then the people we impact are the scorekeepers. Will people say that their experience with us has left them better off for our having ‘moved through their lives’?

Did they learn from us and feel lifted up and encouraged or did they feel inferior, put down, or ashamed of how we interacted with them?

12. We are the only Jesus some of these people will see. What can you do to apply what you've learned as you let your life speak, first to you and then through you to others?

ⁱ Philippians 2:7b

ⁱⁱ John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, p. 19

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/wake>